Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /065 W

-----090852 291714Z /45

R 281517Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6307

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EEC, ASEAN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE JAPAN/ASEAN REGIONAL STABEX ARRANGEMENT

1. DURING APRIL 27 INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR STABEX MATTERS (JEAN-CLAUDE MULLER), MISSION OFFICER WAS TOLD IN CONFIDENCE THAT AN OFFICIAL FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS RAISED THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE REGIONAL STABEX ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE ASEAN GROUP, IN A VISIT TO MULLER'S OFFICE APRIL 26. MULLER PROFESSED TO BE TAKEN ABACK BY THE DIRECT MANNER IN WHICH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER INDICATED THAT THE GOJ IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING SUCH A REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ASEAN, ALTHOUGH HE OFFERED TO COOPERATE WITH THE JAPANESE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT PURPOSE OF JAPAN EMBOFF'S VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN CERTAIN TECHNICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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STABEX OPERATIONS APPARENTLY REQUESTED BY AN INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT IN TOKYO. ONE PRODUCT REPORTEDLY OF INTEREST TO THE GOJ FOR COVERAGE UNDER A POSSIBLE STABEX IS RUBBER.

2. IN VIEW OF MULLER'S REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY, MISSION REQUESTS THAT ANY EVENTUAL FOLLOW-UP ON THIS

MATTER BY DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY TOKYO BE SO CONDUCTED AS
NOT TO REVEAL EC COMMISSION AS SOURCE OF OUR INFORMATION.
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Message Attributes

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